

Capuchin Community Services

www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org

Gratitude for Capuchins' Ministry a Constant When working, donating. When not, receiving help to feed & clothe family

Dennis Manyen and Patricia Wal have worked and raised a family in the neighborhood around the House of Peace for decades. "We've come for food and clothing and we've donated clothing and toys at different times in our life," Dennis said.

This day they were signing up to receive a holiday food box. Patricia said, "We brought our grandson, Affion with us as we watch him on the days our daughter works." Dennis added, "We've been coming to the House of Peace for five years to sign up for the holidays. As we don't have children in our household anymore, we get the Thanksgiving box. Our daughter signs up for the Christmas box and she gets toys for the kids as well."

Dennis and Patricia have been going to eat at St. Ben's Community Meal for even more years. "We only go when we are in need," Dennis explained. "When I was working, I'd eat at St. Ben's and get enough food that I could take some for lunch the next day!" Patricia shared her memories of eating Christmas dinner at St. Ben's Community Meal, "I love it, they are so kind and the meal is as good as anything served in a restaurant." Dennis added, "For the Christmas meal they

serve you at the table so it's a wonderful experience to share with the family. We brought Christmas cards the first years to thank the people who served us."

Now retired and both on disability, it's hard sometimes to bring in enough income. Patricia said, "We sell our plasma several times each month. Now we don't eat at St. Ben's all the time and as a result, Dennis was turned away because we weren't eating enough protein." Dennis continued, "They test your blood when you go to donate and my protein levels were too low. We went back to St. Ben's Community Meal so we could get more protein in our diet."

Capuchin Br. Rob Roemer, Ministry Director said, "Dennis and Patricia illustrate the challenges of the working poor. Even in retirement, they are always looking for a way to feed and clothe themselves and their family. We Capuchins minister here to create a community based on sister-brotherhood. Certainly Dennis and Patricia, receiving and giving back, exemplify that community at its best."



▲ Grandparents Dennis and Patricia share a smile with their grandson, Affion at Capuchin Community Services' House of Peace site.

Registration For Holidays Begins



◀ Br. David Hirt (L-Sitting) and Linda Barnes, Social Worker (Center-Standing) assist guests registering for the Holiday Food Box and Toy Drives.

▶ Br. Jerry Smith (Center-Standing) and Barbara Sprewer (Sitting) help Essie Mallette begin the registration process. Essie was applying for a holiday food box and toys for herself and six children.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace

Holiday Help: Mon-Fri

● Tis the season!!! We are looking for groups to come in to help sort/organize the food in our holiday boxes. This would be any shift from 8-4pm Monday-Friday. It would consist of sorting/organizing food, assembling food boxes, verifying needed food items are in boxes, and helping distribute the boxes. If interested in helping spread the holiday cheer please contact Shirelle Jenkins, CCS Volunteer Coordinator at 414-933-1300 x1123 or sjenkins@thecapuchins.org.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Saturday, November 11, 2017

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

● Regular volunteers are invited to gather for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Michael Drake will perform and Bunzel's will cater a wonderful luncheon. Seats are limited. To register online: <https://ccs-vollunch.eventbrite.com> or to register by phone, call 414.374.8841, ext. 41.

The luncheon will be held in the North Hall at Christ King Parish School
2646 N Swan Blvd | School Entrance is on 91st Street | Milwaukee, WI 53226

HOW TO DONATE

To make a gift to our Capuchin ministry to the hungry & needy go to:

www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org

Or mail your gift to:

Capuchin Community Services
P.O. Box 5830
Milwaukee, WI 53205-5830

Capuchin Community Services is a ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. Unless otherwise directed, donations support the local ministry and the Province.

The Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts made to our ministries, Capuchin Community Services, St. Ben's Community Meal and/or the House of Peace, are tax deductible as allowable by law.

Roaming Ministry

by Br. Rob Roemer, OFM, Capuchin Director

So much gratitude!

November, a time to recognize and be grateful for all we have been given, our health, freedom, and all those who are a part of our lives. I am continually reminded by our guests of the gratitude for such simple and basic needs.

Just hang around the food pantry, clothing closet or serving line of the meal. You will hear "thank you" over and over again. It might be for the helping of potatoes, the piece of bread, the bag of clothing, blanket, or the bag of food. If I stand near the serving line I can hear "thank you" all the way down the line. When I ask a guest how they are doing they tell me "I'm blessed." This same person will tell me how they are ready to be evicted, sleeping outdoors or struggling to feed their family. Amidst the hardships there is still gratitude. I am humbled by the guests and try to learn from them to recognize the many blessings in my life.

At Capuchin Community Services, we have many reasons to give thanks. You, our donors, meal sponsors and volunteers are so very good to us and thus allow us to do so much for the guests at the doors. We have dedicated staff and volunteers who are quick to give of their time and talents. If we had to pay for all the services we receive, we would never be able to accomplish all we do now. We are especially grateful this month for the huge outpouring of generosity to our capital campaign. Thanks to you, we have almost reached our goal. The renovations of have begun!! The former St. Anthony Hospital will soon be supportive housing and expanded services for our homeless and working poor guests. I am humbled by such support and generosity! I am grateful as well, and say a huge THANK YOU to each and every one of you.

In this season of Thanksgiving, may you too "be blessed" and recognize all you have to be grateful for in your life.



▲ Br. Rob Roemer (center) serves the residents at Capuchin Apartments. The residents gather once per month for a community building dinner and meeting.

Staff Arrivals



▲ Sam Bazan is a postulant serving at both of Capuchin Community Services' two sites. Sam grew up in the Milwaukee area and volunteered with the Capuchins through his Catholic high school. Since then he's been a teacher/caregiver for the disabled. Sam described his days when he's not at the House of Peace or St. Ben's Meal, "We pray and study during our one year postulancy. I really like communal prayer. Especially the Liturgy of the Hours. It took awhile to catch on but once I did, I liked it." Postulancy is the first stage of the process to become a friar.



▲ Trevor Poppe is our new Activities Coordinator. He works each morning at the House of Peace and then helps lead the Front Door Ministry at St. Ben's Meal each afternoon. Trevor coordinates the weekend recreation program for the homeless. Prior to working for the Capuchins, Trevor earned a BA and worked for area charities serving people in crisis.

Blessings of Service

by Gerri Sheets-Howard, M.Div.
Administrative Director

Joyful Service

Capuchin Community Services in agreement with the mission statement of the Province of St. Joseph, seeks to transform the world through reverence. One of the value statements which helps us to fulfill this mission is to offer Joyful Service. Sometimes each encounter that we may have is not always joyful, but our response can certainly be joyful.

The many hundreds of guests that are served at the House of Peace and St. Ben's are often dealing with issues such as finding safe lodging for the night, securing food for their families, being able to pay the required co-pays for prescriptions, as well as, having the opportunity to take a shower at the "front door ministry" at St. Ben's. We as staff and volunteers have the honor to help each guest with these issues.

Police & Capuchins Develop Partnership Faith Based Liaison Values CCS's Supportive Services

"You know I was born at St. Anthony's Hospital," Milwaukee Police Officer Greg Hunter said. Now the police department's liaison to the faith based community, Officer Hunter frequently collaborates with Capuchin Community Services.

"The Police Departments' goal is to build relationships in the faith based community so we can provide services to families affected by catastrophic events like house fires and crime," Officer Hunter said. He explained, "My job is to find resources from the faith based community to help my brothers and sisters in uniform transform the community's understanding of an officer's role. We are not here just to arrest people."

"Gerri is great, she never turns me down," Officer Hunter said. He explained how they first met, "My partner and I had come upon "Ethel," an elderly woman in her late 80's living without any family in our district who we adopted."

After providing "Ethel" with food for several months, the two officers realized that they couldn't continue to buy her food and care for their own families. Officer Hunter said, "I came

► Gerri spoke at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon last year.



Because their situations are often very fluid, the urgency in securing these services, may not always result in the most pleasant experience. However, it is our mission, to help each guest transform from homelessness to homeowners, from the hungry to those that are "filled" and from nakedness to "dressed for success". This process of metamorphosis must always begin with joyful and sincere service on our part. We are striving each day to become transformed ourselves through joyful interactions with each guest that we serve. As our Joyful Service value statement reads, "We will respectfully address people's needs, transforming us all in the process."

to the House of Peace and asked Gerri if she could help us. She was immediately responsive and provided us with food boxes."



▲ (L) MPD Officer Greg Hunter & (R) Gerri Sheets-Howard pose before the bread table.

they rebuilt their lives," Officer Hunter said.

Now the partnership deepens as the former hospital turned jail is being prepared to be a place of healing. "I am so fortunate that it's my job to help strengthen the relationship between the Milwaukee Police Department and the faith-based community like the Capuchins," Officer Hunter said.

Who We Are

Capuchin Community Services is a ministry of **The Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph**, a religious community of friars inspired by St Francis of Assisi. Our friars live and work with those who are in need of help... the poor, the disenfranchised, and the needy.



Our Ministry Council

Capuchin Community Services is advised by a volunteer Ministry Council consisting of leaders in our community. Current Ministry Council members include:

- Diane Knight
- Julie Darneider
- Anthony Myers
- Chuck Cmeyla
- Felice Green
- Sara Zirbel
- Wendy Hermann
- Pam Meyer
- Duncan Shrout
- Gerri Sheets-Howard (Administrative Director)
- Br Rob Roemer (Ministry Director)
- Jeff Parrish (Director of Provincial Ministries)

Thus began a partnership which has continued to grow. Officer Hunter has also learned about St. Ben's Community Meal. "Recently I was able to refer a family to St. Ben's as they had no food after a house fire. Food boxes wouldn't help as they didn't have a kitchen. The meals at St. Ben's helped them to get fed and find support while they rebuilt their lives," Officer Hunter said.

St. Anthony Project

by Dan McKinley, Capital Campaign Consultant

Construction Begins!



Exciting news for our friends who faithfully support Milwaukee's impoverished and homeless people through the work of Capuchin Community Services!

Heartland Housing has officially completed the financing for the St. Anthony's building, and construction is underway on 60 units of permanent supportive housing. Heartland Housing, a great partner for this effort and earlier for Capuchin Apartments, is a community housing development organization which facilitates the development of people through the preservation and creation of affordable and supportive housing, with a priority in meeting the needs of those facing homelessness, those with very low-income, and those with chronic disabilities.

This vision for St. Anthony has gained the support of many compassionate people like you—over 1,200 donors have contributed more than \$2,100,000 to Capuchin Community Services for well-designed and hospitable facilities for our homeless guests.

Security Guard Serves for Brother Cares for Guests with Special Needs

Tom Bender's connections to St. Ben's Community Meal go back decades. "I started at St. Ben's in 1982 then I moved over to St. Francis of Assisi Parish," Tom said. For a period of years he worked in the food processing industry until his employer moved the jobs out of the country.

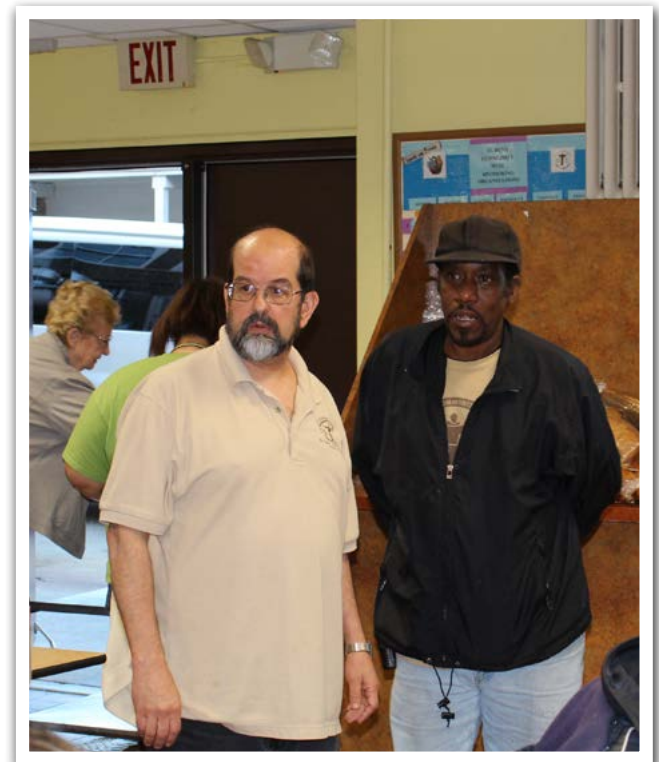
Tom continued, "One day I was talking to my brother, Harvey who was dying. He worked at St. Ben's and asked me to apply for his job when he passed." So Tom returned and handles general security and seats those with special needs. "The Capuchins have been serving here for over 100 years and I'm proud to be a part of their ministry," Tom explained. He leaned forward to confide, "You know what I like best? My friends are here and I get to help people."

► Kenny Howard, Assistant Director and Bill Mewes, Project Superintendent, Altius Building Company look over the start of the remodeling of the former St. Anthony's Hospital. The project will include supportive housing and two floors of social and medical services.



A celebration was held on October 30th to commemorate this milestone, and involved donors, government officials, local clergy, nonprofit leaders, corporate executives, and community members.

Although we still must raise roughly \$200,000 for furniture, fixtures and related expenses for the new facilities, we are thanking God ahead of time, in the spirit of Fr. Solanus Casey. We are thankful above all that our new facilities at St. Anthony will have the capacity to offer the best care possible to the most vulnerable people in Milwaukee—the poor, the hungry, and the homeless. Thank you!



▲ Br. Rob Roemer, Ministry Director confers with Tom Bender, Security Guard during a recent meal at St. Ben's Community Meal. Tom handles security at the front of the line and welcomes people who are disabled or have small children to a special seating area. After Tom seats them, they can either go to the front of the line or have a volunteer fill their tray.



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Capuchin Community Services

St. Ben's Community Meal
1015 N 9th St
Milwaukee, WI 53233
414.271.0135



House of Peace
1702 W Walnut St
Milwaukee, WI 53205
414.933.1300

Support our ministry: www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate or by mail to P.O. Box 5830, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0830